Liberalisation of Visa rules for foreign students

†*251. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the fact that foreign students are extremely impressed by the world class education system in India, Government have decided to liberalise the Visa rules for the foreign students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said decision would be implemented alongwith the number of foreign students likely to be benefited as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The changes that have been effected in the Student Visa regime, *inter alia,* include removal of restriction on the number of the courses a foreign student may undertake, counting the periodicity of the visa with respect to duration from the new course or five years whichever is less, flexibility to change the course/Institution, enhancing the period of 'Provisional Student Visa' to six months to enable the foreign students to get admission in Indian Institutions, allowing the foreign student to complete the course even if he/she fails as long as the Institution allows him/her to carry on the studies, and delegation of powers to the State Governments/UT administration and FRROs to grant extension of stay to foreign students.

(c) Necessary instructions have been issued on 21.6.2005 to all Indian Missions/Posts abroad and State Governments to bring in force the new Student Visa regime with immediate effect. This would cover all foreign students other than those from Pakistan, who are desirous to come to India for studies or undergoing studies in India at present.

Infiltration attempts on LoC

*252. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it has been reported that infiltration attempts are rising along LoC;

(b) if so, whether security officials did not rule out possibility of some militants having crossed LoC;

(c) whether militant activities in Kashmir and other States in India are on increase;

(d) whether lastest attack on Ayodhya by militants is proof of Pakistan encouraging infiltration and militant activities in India;

(e) if so, what are the steps proposed to check such attempts; and

(f) whether Pakistan has been warned of serious consequences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Overall level of terrorist infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir has come down significantly this year till July 31, as compared to corresponding period last year. Infiltration has shown an upward trend in the month of July, 2005 as compared to preceding six months, although, it is well below the level of infiltration in the month of July, 2004. The comparative estimates of infiltration are shown below:

Period	Infiltration Incidents	Terrorist Infiltrated	Bids Foiled	Infiltrators Killed on International Border/LoC
1st Jan to 31st July 2005	20	159	36	127
1st Jan to 31st July 2004	71	369	26	50
1st to 31st July 2005	9	67	17	57
1st to 31st July 2004	22	142	6	23

(c) Terrorist activities in the State of Jammu and Kashmir as well as North East States have declined during the current year compared

with the corresponding period last year as given below:

Year	No. of terrorist incidents	
	Jammu and Kashmir	North-East States
2004 (Upto July)	1587	657
2005 (upto July)	1198	621

(d) Ongoing investigations of attack on Ayodhya incident indicate the links to terrorist outfits based in Pakistan.

(e) The Government, jointly with the State Government, have adopted a multi-pronged approach, to contain cross-border infiltration particularly in Jammu and kashmir, which includes, *inter-alia,* strengthening of border management and multi-tiered and multi-modal deployment along International Border/Line of Control and near the ever changing infiltration routes, construction of border fencing, improved technology, weapons and equipments for security forces, improved intelligence and operational coordination and synergising intelligence flow to check infiltration and pro-active action against the terrorists within the State. The counter infiltration efforts are reviewed peridodically at various levels in the State Governments (including the two Unified Headquarters headed by the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir) and in the Central Government.

The Central Government, in conjunction with the State Governments, are committed to combating terrorism and have pursued a multi-pronged strategy to counter terrorism which gives primacy to dialogue, democratic political processes and the rule of law. The strategy includes a holistic approach to deal with all aspects of terrorism including areas of concern on political, security and development fronts. Besides, the strategy also seeks to achieve bilateral/multi-lateral co-operation to deal with the menace of terrorism, given its global dimensions.

(f) Government have always made it clear that the India-Pakistan peace process can be sustained only in an atmosphere free from terrorism and violence and is critically dependent on the fulfillment of the commitment of President Musharraf on January 6, 2004 not to permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. Major incidents, like the recent attack at Ayodhya, if repeated, have the potential to disrupt this process.